## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

1    Claim 2 (currently amended): A method for determining

2    a threshold value ($O_{max}$, $O_{min}$, $O_{TR}$) serving to limit an output

3    signal of a processing unit into which an input signal has

4    been fed, characterized in that a level of the input signal

5    is determined and that the threshold value ($O_{max}$, $O_{min}$, $O_{TR}$)

6    is controlled as a function of the level of the input

7    signal, wherein from the said level a mean level (I) is

8    derived on the basis of which the threshold value ($O_{max}$, $O_{min}$,

9    $O_{TR}$) is controlled.

1    Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as in claim

2    2, wherein the threshold value ($O_{TR}$) is controlled by a

3    differential amount ($TR_{max}$) above the mean level (I) of the

4    input signal.

1    Claim 4 (previously presented): The method as in

2    claim 2, wherein the mean level (I) is derived from the

3    input signal s(t) along the following formula:

4    $$I = \frac{1}{T} \times {}_o\!\int^{T} |s(t)| \times dt$$

5       whereby an averaging function is performed over a time

6       interval T.


**Claims 5-8 (canceled)**


1       **Claim 9 (previously presented):**    The method as in

2       claim 3, wherein the differential amount ($TR_{max}$) is adjusted

3       along a compression ratio for a hearing-impaired person.


1       **Claim 10 (original):**    Application of the method per

2       one of the claims 1 to 9 for operating a hearing aid.


1       **Claim 11 (previously presented):**    Application of the

2       method per claim 6 for operation of a hearing aid by a

3       hearing-impaired person.


**Claims 12-20 (canceled)**